

The MIGHTY EIGHTH VOICE



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Online voting experiment

A DoD voting experiment in the 2000 presidential elections that allowed military and overseas voters to cast their ballots through the Internet will be expanded in 2004.

Beginning this fall, the Federal Voting Assistance Program hopes to get as many as 100,000 military personnel – stateside and overseas – their eligible dependents and U.S. citizens living outside the United States to take part in the Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment. SERVE covers only those U.S. citizens who fall under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

Mandated by Congress, the project eligible voters from participating project states will be able to register and vote electronically via any Windows-based personal computer with Internet access from anywhere in world.

Ten states are interested in participating in the 2004 SERVE project: Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington.

The experiment's official Web site can be found at www.serveusa.gov. For more information on SERVE or the Federal Voting Assistance Program, go to www.fvap.gov.



Inside the CAOC Developing the targets



photo by Royal Air Force Sgt. Gareth Davies

Controllers in the Combined Air Operations Center at a forward-deployed base monitor the status of ongoing Operation Iraqi Freedom missions.

Planners develop lists of potential targets days in advance

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Orban

Combined Forces Air Component Commander
Office of Public Affairs

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (AFP) — When the war over Iraq shifted to the Iraqi regime's centers of power, targeting specialists with the Combined Air Operations Center at an air base on the Arabian Peninsula continued outlining the plans needed to defeat enemy forces still threatening U.S. and coalition troops.

"The main job I worked on was the future war — what the battlefield was

going to look like in 72 hours," said Capt. Adam Gonzalez, chief of target development with the CAOC's Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Targets Cell.

Intelligence specialists by trade, "targeteers" draw information from various sources to develop lists of potential targets. On an average day, the targeting cell researched information on roughly 300 targets with anywhere from 1,000 to 2,000 munitions aimed at those targets.

During World War II, U.S. target planners spent days, even weeks, planning out a single strike against a fixed target using hundreds of bombers, Gonzalez said. Advanced technology and surveillance techniques allow today's

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Global Presence...Global Influence...Global Responsibility

Airman learns importance of seeking help

by Senior Airman Heather Shelton

86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany

(AFPN) — My story isn't about how I urinated all over myself while performing a field sobriety test, or how I struggled with the female security forces member who put me in cuffs after I was apprehended for driving under the influence.

My story is about the realization and acceptance of the mistake I made, and the effect it's had on me and the people around me.

The realization of what I did began to sink in during my verbal reprimand from the wing vice commander about my recent behavior.

As I stood at attention in front of him, he looked up from his desk after reading my charges and asked one simple question, "Why?"

No matter how hard I thought about it, all I could think of was the usual, "I made a bad decision... I had a lapse of judgment."

He sat behind his seemingly larger than normal desk, in a room in which I felt so small, and said, "No. That's not good enough. Why?"

As I looked slightly above his frightfully piercing-blue eyes, I stood there trembling, trying to muster a more acceptable answer.

No matter how hard I tried to use my gift for saying what people wanted to hear, I couldn't form a complete thought. It was like every word in my vocabulary had instantly vanished.

At that moment, his question seemed to be the most profound thing I had ever heard. I thought, "Why? What does he mean, why? How do I answer this?"

Because I couldn't answer his question, and was completely baffled by it, I sought help. It's because of the help I received that I can say this: I didn't care about anyone else — it was all about me. My need to drink, and lack of control over it, clouded the thoughts of whom I'd disappoint or possibly even hurt.

I too, was one who rolled my eyes at

the ever-popular saying, "If you drink, don't drive. If you drive, don't drink. If you're drunk and you need a ride, call someone."

Personally, I couldn't really picture my supervisor being too thrilled about rolling out of bed at 3 a.m. on a weekday to come pick me up at a bar. I could just see the look on his face, and hear the tone in his voice during the stern lecture I'd surely receive.

Flashbacks of busting curfew in high school entered my head, and out of sheer fear of reliving those torturous speeches, I thought to myself, "I'm fine. I'm a good driver. I can do this."

Looks like I was wrong. A quick read of the police report will tell you just how wrong I was.

But, I shouldn't have been afraid. Because right now, I'd take a good, late-night verbal assault over everything I've put the people who care about me through.

The apathetic looks, eyes-to-the-ground headshakes, and sighs of disappointment, will haunt me for a long, long time. The past really doesn't go anywhere ladies and gentlemen; it just floats in the background waiting to be introduced to those who bring it up.

Day after day, for the rest of my career, questions will be asked. It's the questions I fear most. Answering the phone and hearing in response to my greeting, "Senior Airman Shelton? Wait, aren't you a staff sergeant? Whoa ... what happened?"

Sadly, questions aren't the only things that add to the humiliation of a "hard bust."

When people think about losing a stripe, they usually worry about losing money or having to start promotion dates all over again. But wait, there's more. There are the little things that get overlooked until you're forced to face them.

For me, that walk of shame has included:

— Changing my e-mail signature block.

— Getting all new uniforms so the unfaded spot the larger stripes once covered doesn't show.

— Knowing the entire KMC and Air Force Public Affairs career field will see my name has changed in the base paper and in stories on the Web. See it and simply wonder.

— Bumping into old classmates or co-workers and getting puzzled looks.

— Getting a new ID card and new checks printed.

— Having to pay out of my own pocket to move into the dorm, while finding a place to store my extra belongings that won't fit in the room.

— Finding transportation to and from work, meetings, appointments, the commissary, all the while knowing I have a beautiful brand new car I can't drive.

— Breaking the news to my parents who are retired military and hearing they've shared the news with other retired military family members.

— Explaining to my little sister, the little girl who used to idolize me, how I shamed myself and my unit.

Unfortunately, the list doesn't stop here. Every day, I'm presented with a new obstacle or embarrassing moment that I never imagined I would ever have to deal with.

Yet still, I consider myself very lucky. Not only could my punishment have been a lot worse, I could have hurt or even killed someone.

Now, I have a second chance. Because of great support from friends and co-workers, and the help I've received, I can get through this. Not only can I get through it, I can prove to others, and to myself, that I am indeed a valuable member of the Air Force team.

But, I can't do it alone. No one can.

My advice to those who read this, always have a plan and stick to it. However, if your plan fails, pick up the phone and ask for help, whatever your problem may be. Don't stop if you can't reach someone right away, keep dialing until someone picks up — someone always picks up. 📞

Commander sends holiday message

From Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson

Commander, 8th Air Force

Like other Americans, members of the "Mighty Eighth" worldwide family will observe Independence Day with friends, families and colleagues. This year, as in the past, many will watch and listen with awe as exploding fireworks light up the night sky. This year in particular, these fireworks will evoke memories of the many battles our sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines, and coastguardsmen have fought in the name of safety and security for our nation and freedom for the oppressed of other lands.

As with many national holidays, it is easy for us to forget the reason for celebration. As Mark Twain said, "...we've got the typical evening hours celebrating down pat, with our fireworks and noise-making." But it is important for us to focus during the daylight hours on the true meaning of this important day.

Two hundred twenty-seven years ago, members of the Continental Congress met on a sweltering July day in Philadel-

phia and made a courageous decision that changed the course of history — they adopted the Declaration of Independence.

Never before had the birth of a nation been heralded by a declaration written by individuals banding together for freedom and democracy. Never before had a republic sprung from the collective voices of its citizenry with an unwavering endorsement from its elected leadership. And never before had freedom been declared an undeniable right guaranteed to all.


Founded on these principles, America has lived in freedom for more than two



Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson

centuries and now stands as the flagship of democracy for the entire world. Other nations look to us as a beacon of hope and welcome the chance to taste the same freedom and liberty that we cherish so dearly.

I know that you, as members of the "Mighty Eighth," have played a prominent role in the current fight for freedom, and have endured great personal sacrifice during the past 22 months. Your nation owes you its gratitude and unwavering support. Freedom does come with a price, and it is evident by your actions that you have paid that price in defending our nation's liberty and independence.

Do not forget the sacrifices of those who came before us and those who are still deployed in freedom's name during your celebrations. Remember the duties and responsibilities of citizenship that we carry everyday ... for it is our generation's turn to carry the torch of freedom. It is now up to those who wear the uniform of service to step up and be counted, so that America remains the home of the free and the land of the brave. 

Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence

"The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another,

and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with

certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. —That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Govern-

ment, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes..."

The Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies
In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776

The "Mighty Eighth" Voice

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Eighth Air Force Commander
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AF selects 15 from headquarters for promotion

Higher retention rates, deployments bring numbers off historical highs

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER – The Air Force has selected 4,832 of 18,903 eligible technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant, a 25.56 percent selection rate; and 7,116 of 32,501 eligible staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant, a 21.89 percent selection rate. From the headquarters, eight were selected for promotion to technical sergeant and seven were selected for promotion to master sergeant.

Those selected for promotion to technical sergeant include:

♦ **Michael Williams**, 8 AF/

Commander's Admin. Section
♦ **Charles Gallaher**, 608th Air Communications Squadron

♦ **David Roberson**, 608th ACOMS

♦ **Derek Allen**, 608th Combat Operations Squadron

♦ **June Benzor**, 608th COS

♦ **James Hofsis**, 8th Information Warfare Flight

♦ **Steven Holt**, 8th IWF

♦ **Sterling Kent**, 8th IWF

Those selected to master sergeant include:

♦ **Steven Blanchard**, 8AF/ Commander's Support Staff

♦ **Tony Nichols**, 608th ACOMS

♦ **Michael Foisy**, 608th COS

♦ **Colleen Hensley**, 608th Air Support Squadron

♦ **Brian Schexnider**, 608th ASPTS

♦ **Mitchell Gilbreath**, 26th Operational Weather Squadron

♦ **Terrence Jones**, 26th OWS

Higher retention rates – opening fewer vacancies at each rank – were one reason promotion rates are lower than last year, officials said.

The master sergeant selection rate dropped 7.67 percent from last year, while this year's technical sergeant rate fell 11.62 percent from last year.

The average master sergeant selectee score for the 03E7 master sergeant test cycle was 340.99 points, based on the following:

— 134.26 Enlisted Performance Reports

— 75.06 Promotion Fitness Exam

— 66.05 Specialty Knowledge Test

— 27.21 Time in Grade

— 35.94 Time in Service

— 11.88 Decorations

The average master sergeant selectee has 3.45 years time in grade and 17.06 years in service. Those selected will be promoted to master sergeant from August to July 2004.

The average selectee score for the 03E6 technical sergeant test cycle was 321.01 points, based on the following:

— 132.73 Enlisted Performance Reports


— 71.83 Promotion Fitness Exam

— 55.89 Specialty Knowledge Test

— 35.13 Time in Grade

— 26.70 Time in Service

— 6.13 Decorations

The average technical sergeant selectee has 4.80 years time in grade and 12.22 years in service. Those selected will be promoted to technical sergeant from August to July 2004. 

Barksdale youth nabs student of the year title

Student judged on accomplishments, written composition, and communication and thinking skills

By 2nd Lt. Cyrena Wooster
2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La.—A Benton Middle School student was named the Louisiana Middle School Student of the Year May 14 and was recognized by the Louisiana State representatives for his academic achievement, leadership, character and service to his school and community.

Alexander Parmater, son of Maj. Alan Parmater, Eighth Air Force, met with the Louisiana Speaker of the House and other state representatives for a ceremony commemorating his award June 4 in Baton Rouge.

"At first I couldn't believe I had won," said Alexander.

"I'm grateful to my friends and family who have been really supportive of me."

"We're very proud of Alexander and his accomplishments," said Sarah Parmater, Alexander's mother.

Alexander competed at the school level and was selected based on an overall three-year record.

After winning at the school level, he competed against nominees from all of the middle schools in Bossier Parish. When he was chosen as Bossier Parish

Student of the Year, he went on to compete at the regional and state levels, winning both competitions.

All participants in the state competition were required to present portfolios of their accomplishments and were evaluated on a written composition. Communication and thinking skills were evaluated during an oral review before a panel of judges.




Alexander Parmater

Alexander received a \$500 savings bond and was recognized by Louisiana Representative Jane Smith for his efforts.

Alexander is a member of the Boy

Scouts of America and is currently working towards becoming an Eagle Scout.

He is also first-chair tenor saxophone and first-chair bass saxophone in the school band, and a member of the school's debate team.

"Alexander is an outstanding student," said Dwayne Slack, Benton Middle School principal. "He is a fine young man and we're proud he represented our school." 

Aerospace Warrior Attitude



Airman 1st Class Lakiesha Walker
608th Air Operations Group
Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

Years of service: 2 years 9 months

Hometown: Alexandria, Va.

Family: Husband, Terrance

Job title: Information Management Specialist

Primary duties and responsibilities: Workgroup Management

Most rewarding job aspect: Helping people

Goals: Obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice

Hobbies: Reading

I'm most proud of: My mom

My best asset: Friendliness

What motivates your winning attitude: Working with great people.

Favorite aspects of Barksdale Air Force Base: The trees and historical look of the base.

Does someone you know deserve to be "Spotlighted?"

Call public affairs at DSN 781-2156, or e-mail Master Sgt. Rick DelaHaya at richard.delahaya@barksdale.af.mil

Eighth Air Force Salutes!

Below-the-Zone promotion

Congratulations to the Headquarters' latest Senior Airman below-the-zone promotee.

♦ **Airman 1st Class Amy Rucubo-Elizarraraz**

26th Operational Weather Squadron

♦ **Airman 1st Class Desiree Herring**

26th Operational Weather Squadron

♦ **Airman 1st Class Michael Ragsdale**

26th Operational Weather Squadron

♦ **Airman 1st Class Matt Thompson**

26th Operational Weather Squadron

♦ **Airman 1st Class Melissa York**

608th Air Intelligence Squadron

Awards and Decorations

Congratulations to the Headquarters' awards and decorations recipients presented during Commander's Call June 20:

♦ **Lt. Col Daniel Clevenger**

608th Combat Operations Squadron

-Meritorious Service Medal, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster

♦ **Capt. Gayle Sledge**

608th Air Support Squadron

-Meritorious Service Medal

-2002 ACC Logistics Plans Manager of the Year

♦ **Maj. Grey Morgan**

608th Air Operations Group

-Meritorious Service Medal, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

♦ **Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Touhey**

8th Air Force Stan/Eval

Meritorious Service Medal, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

♦ **Maj. Gregory Patschke**

8th Air Force Stan/Eval

-Meritorious Service Medal, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

♦ **Lt. Col Alan Parmater**

8th Air Force Stan /Eval

-B-52 2,000 hour pin

Welcome to the "Mighty Eighth"

*The following people joined the Headquarters
8th Air Force team in June:*

♦ **Airman Sarah Lentz**

608th Air Intelligence Squadron

♦ **Airman 1st Class Jennifer Giles**

608th Air Communications Squadron

♦ **Airman 1st Class Harrison Whiteis**

608th Air Intelligence Squadron

♦ **Master Sgt. Steven Glass**

26th Operational Weather Squadron

♦ **Master Sgt. William Miller**

608th Air Intelligence Squadron

♦ **Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Moran**

608th Air Communications Squadron

♦ **Chief Master Sgt. James Buchanan**

608th Air Support Squadron

♦ **2nd Lt. Adam Streff**

26th Operational Weather Squadron

♦ **1st Lt. Lisa Holmes**

8th Air Force Personnel

♦ **Maj. Daryl Page**

8th Air Force Stan/Eval

♦ **Maj. Marcus Boyd**

8th Air Force Stan/Eval





photo by Tech. Sgt. Richard Freeland

Ever Vigilant

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM — A B-52 Stratofortress pilot from the 40th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron scans the sky over Afghanistan recently, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

● CAOC, from page 1

targeteers to cut down the decision-making cycle to hours or minutes while requiring only a handful of aircraft to complete these missions, he said.

Today, targeteers look at ways for U.S. and Coalition forces to seriously degrade or break down the Iraqi regime's ability to fight while avoiding damage to the country's infrastructure, said Gonzalez, who deployed from the 608th Air Intelligence Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., where he serves as the chief of targets for 8th Air Force headquarters. "We're not aiming to absolutely flatten most of these targets. We're trying to damage them to a level where they cease to function," he said.

For example, targeteers looked at the Iraqi air defense system as a continuous threat to coalition aircraft in the weeks leading up to the war, Gonzalez said. The air defense network was like a spider web, with the central command authorities at the center and its radar sites stretched across hundreds of miles of desert like individual strands of the web. Instead of striking each air defense site, targeteers looked at the system's weak

points — its weak strands. By attacking just a handful of these targets, the web collapsed, allowing friendly forces virtually unrestricted access over the battlefield, he said.

"We didn't have to destroy every piece of hardware out there," Gonzalez said. "What we have to do is break their system to where they can't talk to each other and they can't react to what we're doing. The more precise we get, the fewer targets we have to prosecute, the less damage to the infrastructure we have, the fewer pilots' lives that are at stake, [and] the fewer weapons we have to use."

With U.S. and coalition forces capable of maintaining around-the-clock surveillance over the battlefield, the targeting world has learned to adapt to the demands of high-speed planning, Gonzalez said.

"As the war progressed, we've did less and less deliberate [long-range] planning and more and more of the 'current ops' planning," he said. If Coalition forces positively identified a target during a morning mission, it would likely be struck by sundown," he said.

This effort must also factor in the need to avoid collateral damage and to

steer clear of non-military targets, Gonzalez said. Legal experts worked alongside the targeteers to ensure every target selected abides by the Law of Armed Conflict — the governing international guidelines for conducting war.

When it comes to targeting, nothing is taken lightly, Gonzalez said. "It's deadly serious. It's very easy for us to pull up a [potential] target list and with a few mouse clicks select a few targets and a few aim points and produce a list. Every time you do that, there are ramifications.

"You have to keep a warrior-type mindset. With a few keystrokes and a few mouse clicks, you have the potential to kill more people than any of our troops can on the ground," Gonzalez said. "However, if I do my job right, I potentially save lives by making the conflict shorter and accomplishing our objectives," he said. 🇺🇸

Editor's note: This is the final segment of a series of articles on the inner workings of the Combined Air Operations Center. Spanning nearly 30,000 square feet, the CAOC is the nerve center for all U.S. Central Command air component missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

B-52 undergoes worldwide testing



courtesy photo

A B-52H Stratofortress receives fuel over Alaska during a recent mission. The B-52H Avionics Midlife Improvement project completed two missions to test new hardware and software upgrades. With the upgrades, B-52s will continue flying until 2040.

By Airman 1st Class Wes Auldridge

Air Force Flight Test Center Public Affairs

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFPN) — The B-52H Avionics Midlife Improvement project recently completed two missions to test new hardware and software upgrades in extreme conditions around the world.

The missions were part of the research and developmental test for the project before it moves to operational test and evaluation, allowing the B-52 Stratofortress to continue flying until 2040.

Officials tested the new hardware and software's ability to continue navigation without a global positioning system over the different poles of Earth, the international dateline and other

locations that have different magnetic readings.

"The purpose of these two sorties was to ensure that the B-52 AMI system is ready to go when the first phase, dedicated operational test hits this September," said Lt. Col. Shawn Fleming, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center AMI operational test director.

During DT-1, the first test to the B-52, 419th Flight Test Squadron officials launched a 16-hour B-52 AMI test mission at 75 degrees north latitude, close to the North Pole. The purpose was to verify proper operation of the equipment where the magnetic variation from true north and magnetic north is greatest and conditions are not normal. The flight tested the new systems' ability to accurately navigate near the North Pole

while recognizing the skewed magnetic lines.

"Flying at high latitudes places unique stresses on navigational systems since the meridians of longitude are much closer together," said Fleming. "The purpose of this sortie was to ensure that the AMI system properly handled flight at these high latitudes."

The second mission, called DT-2, was a 22-hour mission over the equator west of Hawaii. The aircraft was flown to the equator and international dateline to ensure the AMI navigation system properly handled multiple crossings of the equator. The mission involved flying from all different directions with multiple crossings of the international dateline and equator.

"These unique cases are challenging for any naviga-


tional system and are very difficult to simulate on the ground," said Fleming.

With both missions proving the upgrades will work properly, the developmental tests were considered successful, and the AMI program is continuing as planned.

The B-52 has been in the Air Force's fleet since 1952. After three years of test planning, the 412th Test Wing introduced the B-52's new avionics system into flight Dec. 19. AMI flight testing is scheduled to continue through December 2004.

While the overall test objective is to evaluate B-52 mission capabilities, performance and suitability, the AMI program is specifically designed to upgrade the B-52H Offensive Avionics System. This upgrade includes replacing the inertial navigation system, the avionics control unit, the data transfer system and all associated hardware and software.

"We are moving away from Commodore 64 technology and upgrading to Pentium III class processors of the late '90s," said Maj. Merrice Spencer, AMI project navigator and chief of B-52 avionics and weapons integration. "This will allow the B-52 to operate with the newest technology, weapons and then some. Without this avionics upgrade, there is no way weapons coming on line today or in the future will be able to operate with the B-52."

All Air Force B-52s are scheduled to receive this upgrade by 2007. 

Secretary receives top recognition

By TSgt. Marilyn C. Holliday

70th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. -- Michelle Stanbrough, a clerical specialist from the 694th Intelligence Group of the 70th Intelligence Wing, was recognized as the Baltimore Federal Executive Board gold award winner recently.

The top civilians are recognized through the Federal Career Award Program and presented individual awards annually in conjunction with National Public Service Recognition Week.

Stanbrough received the highest recognition as the outstanding clerical specialist in the Baltimore area. She is secretary to Col. Kathryn Gauthier, 694th Intelligence Group commander. Gauthier arrived at Fort Meade in July and nominated Stanbrough for the award.

"The many accomplishments of our nation's military in the war on terrorism are built on the unsung heroes like Michelle Stanbrough, whose administrative effi-



courtesy photo

Michelle Stanbrough, 694th Intelligence Group, has been recognized as the Baltimore Federal Executive Board gold award winner.

ciency, team focus and superb communications flow allow senior leaders to focus on critical operational and support challenges," Gauthier said.

"Whether solving the hot issues of the

day, improving coordination with other agencies, or performing scheduling miracles, she always demonstrates the highest levels of professional competence, pride in her work and extraordinary customer service."

"I was raised by parents that taught me to work hard and try to do your best in everything that you do," Stanbrough said. "I try to help where I can and if I don't know how to do something I learn how. I'm not afraid to take on new tasks and expand my abilities to accomplish new things."

In addition to the gold award, Stanbrough has won the 694th Support Squadron, 694th Intelligence Group and 70th Intelligence Wing Civilian of the Quarter and 2002 recognition. Most recently, she accepted the Air Intelligence Agency Gordon W. Sommers Award for 2002. She was also named a quarterly winner in the Communications and Information Civilian category at both the group and wing level in 2002. 🇺🇸

694th support Squadron crowns cardio-kickboxing champ

By SSgt. Kristina Brown

70th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

The 694th Support Squadron at Fort Meade, Md., crowned Master Sgt. Karen Thompson, 694th SPTS Military Personnel Flight superintendent, as their cardio-kickboxing champion May 7.

"Thompson showed unbelievable stamina, form and speed during the one-hour competition," Lt. Col. John Kaplan, 694th SPTS commander and one of the participants, said. "The cardio-kickboxing title competition started in February 2003 as a vehicle to improve 694 SPTS overall fitness."

In February 2003, the competition began with a selection of the best cardio-kickboxer in four categories: CGO, Senior

NCO, NCO and Airman.

Winners were: 2nd Lt. Christopher Kennedy, 694th SPTS Education Office Flight commander, CGO category; Thompson, SNCO category; Tech. Sgt. Lisa Thomas from the 694th SPTS Communications Flight and Staff Sgt. Jennifer Gilbert from the 694th SPTS MPF, tied it up in the NCO category and Airman 1st Class William Wloczewski, from 694 SPTS Small Computers Flight, took the Airman category.

The cardio-kickboxing instructor really challenged the competitors with a tough workout from start to finish. With each competitor holding two or three pound weights, the competition included a spirited 5-



courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Karen Thompson competes in the cardio-kickboxing championship.

punch combination of jab, cross, hook, uppercut and back-

hand.

The competitors were also pushed to the limit as they climbed the ladder to heaven. Additionally, the competitors showed their form and stamina by holding the weights at a forty-five degree angle while high-stepping.

The final portion of the contest was an abdominal routine with hundreds of crunches and the "plank", an abdominal exercise in which a person holds himself on his elbows and forearms and toes in a push-up position with his back as straight-as-a plank.

"The stamina and form of all the competitors were absolutely amazing," Kaplan said. 🇺🇸

U-2 pilot receiving Kolligian trophy

By Tech. Sgt. James Brabenec
9th Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFPN) — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper will present Maj. Jeffrey Olesen, a U-2 Dragon Lady pilot, with the 2002 Koren Kolligian Jr. Trophy during a June 13 ceremony at the Pentagon.

Olesen, assistant director of operations for the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron here, will receive the award for safely coping with an in-flight emergency during an October 2001 Operation Southern Watch mission over Iraq.

Flying above 70,000 feet, U-2 pilots normally operate their aircraft at full power. However, three hours into his mission, Olesen's aircraft began to experience rollbacks, a condition in which the engine's revolutions per minute would decrease momentarily to a midpower setting and then increase back to full power.

Faced with uncertain engine operations, he knew the mission was over and turned his thoughts to the landing ahead.

"I remember during initial training an instructor told me it doesn't matter how long a sortie is because once you take off all you can think about is, 'Now I have to land this plane,'" he said. "Predictable flight characteristics are essential to landing this aircraft. The only other alternative is to land without engine power like a glider."

Olesen looked to his instruments for indications of what was causing the rollbacks.

"By ruling various causes out, I decided I had a mechanical problem in the engine," he said. "So, I thought about what I could do to fix that."

The U-2 has two primary operating modes. The first mode is computer regulated to provide optimum performance at altitude while the secondary mode removes the computer and offers mostly mechanical flight control.

"The flight manual states switching to secondary fixes almost any engine problem, so I switched out of primary,"



photo by Tech. Sgt. James Brabenec

Following a U-2 high flight, Maj. Jeffrey Olesen, the recipient of the 2002 Koren Kolligian Jr. Trophy, gives some feedback to Senior Airman Josh Ordiway, a crew chief with the 9th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron here.

Olesen said.

Immediately the entire aircraft began to vibrate.

"It was so severe I couldn't even see. It was like someone grabbed me and shook me violently," he said. "Without thinking, I knew I had to get out of secondary quick. So, I felt for the switch, one I could not actually see, and put the engine back in primary."

As Olesen flipped the switch, he did not know if the aircraft would hold together or if the engine would stop completely.

Although his aircraft once again began operating smoothly, the original problem also resurfaced.

"At that point, I turned back toward home still trying to figure out what was wrong with the engine, (which was now experiencing) more severe and frequent rollbacks," he said. "I soon found at idle the engine didn't rollback; however, it became stuck there no matter what I did with the throttle. At that point, the plane operated like a glider."

Flying in this mode, Olesen could not maintain altitude.

Realizing he could not return to the base, he notified other aircraft in the combat support package of his intent to

land at another location and began his spiral from high altitude to the landing site.

Gliding down into landing position required perfect timing to line up on the runway. To compound this difficulty, he would land without the assistance of a chase car.

"Once that final turn (toward the runway) was made, I was committed," he said.

If Olesen turned the aircraft too late, it would hit the dirt short of the runway resulting in a forced ejection and loss of the aircraft. On the other hand, if he turned too early, the aircraft would have floated and landed too far down the runway, rolled off the end and he would also be faced with an ejection and loss of aircraft.

There was no checklist covering a descent from such a high altitude with an engine in idle, forcing Olesen to create new procedures to safely land the aircraft.

"It was all a guess as to when to start that turn," he said. "Thanks to good training, I guessed right."

Using what he called a failsafe technique, Olesen took the plane down and brushed the runway with the landing gear. He went back to about two feet off the ground and, now confident of where the runway was, successfully brought the aircraft down for a landing.

For his airmanship on this mission, Olesen has won several safety awards including 12th Air Force's Outstanding Airmanship Award for 2002 and the 2002 Air Combat Command Outstanding Airmanship Award.

● See U-2, page 10



photo by Master Sgt. Rick DelaHaya

Bullseye!

Roy Compson, former B-24 tail gunner during World War II, toured the "Louisiana Belle" during a recent visit to the "Mighty Eighth" and the 8th Air Force Museum. Compson served with the 449th Bomb Group and flew 50 combat missions from Jan. 9 - June 30, 1944.

NCO selected to attend AFIT

By Airman 1st Class Collen Wronek
55th Wing Public Affairs

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. — An airman from the 755th Operation Support Squadron, a 55th Wing tenant unit at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., will be attending the Air Force Institute of Technology.

"I am elated to have the chance to excel and move on to new duties and greater responsibilities," said Master Sgt. Clyde Kebodeaux, 755th Operations Support Squadron weapons and tactics superintendent. Kebodeaux plans to get his AFIT master's degree in computer science.

"AFIT is a very prestigious graduate school and it emphasizes practical application of classroom knowledge in day-to-day Air Force duties," Kebodeaux said. "I am excited by the opportunity to further my education and become a better senior NCO at the same time."

The institute was established in 1919 and has been granting degrees since 1956 to military officers. It wasn't until last year, when Secretary of the Air Force James Roche opened it up to enlisted.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank

the many commanders, supervisors and professors who wrote all great letters of recommendation," Kebodeaux said. "In the end, these letters along with my focus on studying for the GRE were what made my (AFIT) package stand out."

Kebodeaux said attending the institute will help his career and will be in the second class beginning in August.

"Until now I flew on the RC-135 or EC-130H in separate wings," he said. "With the Air Force reorganization of Information Operations assets under 8th Air Force, and both Rivet Joint and Compass Call aircraft under the same wing, my career path and future impact on the Air Force could be phenomenal," Kebodeaux said.

"Attending AFIT will give me the necessary technical knowledge to bring an operator's perspective into system design and more importantly, I hope to be able to meld the two platforms' information databases in the future."

After his graduation from AFIT, Kebodeaux doesn't know what type of doors will open for him.

"I am very interested in seeing what assignment I receive after graduation." 


• U-2, from page 9

According to Olesen, winning (these) awards is a good way to focus on the team aspect of mission accomplishment.

"(The awards) draw attention to Beale and the hard work each member does here to support the vital U-2 mission," he said.

The Koren Kolligian Jr. Trophy is presented each year in the name and memory of an Air Force pilot, a first lieutenant, who was declared missing in the line of duty when his T-33 aircraft disappeared off the California coast Sept. 14, 1955.

The trophy, a symbolic representation of an Air Force jet pilot surmounting a marble base, was established to recognize outstanding feats of airmanship by aircrew members who by extraordinary skill, exceptional alertness, ingenuity or proficiency, averted accidents or minimized the seriousness of the accidents in terms of injury, loss of life, aircraft damage or property damage.

The trophy, established in 1958, is the only Air Force individual safety award personally presented by the Air Force chief of staff. 

8th AF commander visits 2nd Bomb Wing



Staff Sgt. Jimmy Boone, 2nd Communications Squadron, meets Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, Eighth Air Force commander, during his visit June 10.

photo by Master Sgt. Michael Kaplan

By Senior Airman Sarah Clark

2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La.—The commander of the “Mighty Eighth,” Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, spent June 10 visiting troops throughout the 2nd Bomb Wing here.

“I wanted to thank them for all the support they give me and my wife Vicki and the Eighth Air Force headquarters,” Carlson said. “We’re a tenant on this base that belongs to Col. [Floyd] Carpenter and the 2nd Bomb Wing and I know we cause a lot of extra work for you all. So I wanted to thank the people for that.”

The general began the day with breakfast at the

Red River Dining Facility and then visited several shops that included the 2nd Maintenance Squadron trailer section, two-bay fuel cell and metal technology, command post, 2nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, 2nd Communications Squadron and more.

“I got to see some of the back parts of base that I don’t get to see when I just drive back and forth to work,” he said.

One place he visited was the 2nd MXS fuel cell.

“It was awesome,” said Airman 1st Class Robert Burwell, 2nd MXS fuel distribution operator. “He crawled right up in my fuel truck. He was easy to talk to. He’s a good guy.”

Although Carlson is

stationed at Barksdale, he doesn’t have an opportunity to visit many of the troops in the 2nd Bomb Wing and see what they are doing.

“I’ve visited every other wing in Eighth Air Force, so I wanted to come and visit this one,” he said.

Carlson said he wanted people to know who he was.

“I think it’s important that they put a name and personality with the face that they have to salute in the black car.” He said. “It’s important that they realize Gen. Carlson is a commander and this is what he talks like, this is what he talks about and this is how he thinks.”

The 2nd Bomb Wing falls under Lt. Gen. Carlson’s command of Eighth Air Force.

“It puts the finishing

touches on everything we do,” said Carlson of the 2nd BW. “Without it, there is no icing on the cake. It’s the pointy end of the spear.”

Carlson was able to meet several airmen throughout the wing and shake their hands and see what they do on a day-to-day basis.

“Everybody that I met appeared to have a positive attitude about what they are doing,” he commented. “I saw people that I thought were professional, well trained and motivated to do the right thing at the right time for the right reasons.”

Carlson also saw the condition in which people do their job.

“There are some age exceptions. We live at a base that was built in the 1930’s so the ramp isn’t as good as we’d like it to be,” he said. “They’re old facilities, but people are taking care of them and operating them with pride, so we’ll slowly work those problems one at a time as we get the funding and the resources to do it. I think things are real good here.”

Overall, the general was happy with what he saw.

“This is a great group of people doing good things for the United States of America.” He said.

“They all need to feel proud of what they’ve contributed to their country. The people of this community, the state and the nation look up to them, think highly of them and are very complimentary of what they’re doing and the way they are doing it.”



courtesy photo

An E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft touches down at a desert base and completes the final mission of the 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia after 13 years. When the AWACS, deployed from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., returns home, it will be the first time in 13 years all of Tinker's AWACS aircraft have been home at the same time.

Sentry crews finish mission, end era

By Tech. Sgt. Christopher Ball

363rd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (AFPN) — As the big white bird gracefully touched down on the windblown runway at a forward-deployed location May 28, the mission of the 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia completed a 13-year, continuous mission.

The aircraft, an E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System deployed to the 363rd Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., flew the wing's last operational mission supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The E-3s actually started in this region in the early-1980s, supporting the European Liaison Force, or ELF-1," said Lt. Col. Joe Rossacci, the 363rd EAACS commander.

The Tinker AWACS flew missions supporting ELF-1 until April 1990. In August 1990, they were again deployed to Southwest Asia for Operation Desert Shield.

"We haven't left since then," Rossacci said. "That's why this last flight is so significant. It marks the end of 13 years of sustained E-3 presence in Southwest Asia."

"This is a pretty big step," said Master Sgt. Doug Massengill, a weapons director on the last flight. "We've been here a long time."

Massengill deployed with the AWACS

here four times, but says there are people in his unit that have been back here even more.

"Some of the guys in the unit were here to build the first tent city (in 1996), and they were here again for the building of the second one (in February 2003)," he said.

During that time, the E-3s have been active in the area.

"We've always been heavily involved with enforcing the no-fly zone," said 1st Lt. Sean Higgins, the senior weapons director on the mission. "The mission was pretty benign until last year, when the pace started picking up."

According to Rossacci, the E-3s from Pacific Air Forces started supporting two out of 10 air and space expeditionary forces in 1999 and 2000. Tinker aircraft still covered 80 percent of the mission.

Rossacci said their success during operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom was because of the aircrews, maintainers and support people who came from three different groups at Tinker.

"They are a great group of professionals," he said. "They were combat-focused as soon as they boarded the aircraft at Tinker, knowing they were going to support combat operations. They gelled very quickly into a team, then integrated with the 363rd."

The most recent team arrived in Southwest Asia in February to support OSW and

the ensuing OIF. They provided airborne theater battle management for the coalition partners. The unit flew 67 combat support sorties for OSW before the war started on March 19. The 363rd EAACS completed 277 combat sorties during OIF.

"We were in the middle of everything," Rossacci said. "We were providing battle management for fighters, bombers, combat search and rescue, aerial refuelings, recovery and time-sensitive targeting missions."

Along the way, the AWACS crews forged some great partnerships with crews from the other command and control assets, such as the Combined Air Operations Center, the RC-135 Rivet Joint, the E-8C Joint Stars, the British E-3Ds and the Navy's E-2C Hawkeyes, he said.

"The CAOC developed the plans, and we executed them," Rossacci said. "This requires close coordination especially when working time-sensitive targets; the planning must be done quickly and precisely. This massive coalition overpowered the Iraqis in just a few short weeks."

"This is an awesome sense of closure," said Senior Master Sgt. Gary Oldham, 363rd EAACS operations superintendent. "Not many people have a chance to finish what they started."

Oldham was a member of the first crew to deploy in August 1990 for Operation Desert Shield and has deployed back to Southwest Asia several times. 🇺🇸



photo by Airman 1st Class Nick Martin

Four more years!

Lieutenant Col. Richard McSpadden, Air Force Thunderbirds commander and lead pilot, re-enlisted 21 Team Whiteman members June 13, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The re-enlistment ceremony took place as part of the "Wings over Whiteman" airshow.

Base receives rare "outstanding rating

By Airman 1st Class Nick Martin
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo.—In the 21st century, warfare revolves around information superiority. The 509th Communications Squadron recently proved it's top notch at protecting the base's information and communication infrastructure.

An Air Combat Command Communications Security Inspection team deemed Whiteman's COMSEC program is 'outstanding' after a 10-day biennial inspection process that concluded June 12.

The team has awarded only eight outstanding ratings to active-duty organizations in approximately the last 400 inspections.

"As the Department of Defense continues to evolve COMSEC, it's certain that the people of Whiteman will meet the challenges," said Maj. Clayton Perce, 509th CS commander. "Results like this don't happen overnight. We have the right team and everyone is taking COMSEC very seriously."

The ACC COMSEC inspection team checked the complete inventory of COMSEC aids like code books, electronic codes and keying material. The team also checked all COMSEC-related paperwork to verify any destruction reports, data and receipts.


Master Sgt. Robert Dempsey and Tech. Sgt. David Griffith, 509th CS base COMSEC managers, were major players in Whiteman's high rating.

"We work to ensure the protection of the nation's cryptographic security," said Griffith. "If we don't protect the codes, an enemy can exploit them and even intercept secure radio transmissions to



photo by Tech Sgt. Bill Huntington

Master Sgt. Tony Flemming (left), and Tech Sgt. Gerald Thompson, 442nd Fighter Wing members, are partly responsible for the 442nd FW's Communication Security. The 442nd FW scored perfect in an Air Combat Command Communications Security inspection June 2-10.

manders down to the end users really produced the outstanding rating," said Dempsey. "The previous COMSEC managers and users allowed us to maintain such high standards and the team we have now will set a precedent for the future." 

and from B-2 pilots."

The outstanding rating was cinched not only by the detail-oriented work of Dempsey and Griffith, but also by the diligence of the COMSEC responsible officers of the the 509th Bomb Wing, 442nd Fighter Wing and other base COMSEC users.

"It was truly a team effort. The support I received from the group and squadron com-